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THE COPIE OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY ANE HONORABLE GENTLE-

man ſervand to his HIGHNES,

To a LORD of His Maties Privie Counſale in both Kingdomes, From *Madrid*, the 5 of Apryle ſtilo veteri 1623.

EDINBVRGH,
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MY LORD.

GOE where I will, I can no moir flee from your kyndneſſe then my owne ſhaddow. It hath quicklie over taken mee in *Spaine*, and from *Spaine* I ſend you bak all the thanks that ane honeſt hart can think.

For that Wee doe heere, that your L. may know it from a ſeeing witneſſe, and from you, all *Scotland*, thogh I haue no Cõmiſſion but the libertie of telling trueth. The *Prince* came thr ough *France*, and to this Court Poſt, without a fall or any other harme; Went into the *french* Kings Cabinet and ſaw him, the Queene, and Monsieur and Madame, and the Queene Mother and moſt of the Court, without beeing knowne of any, and ſo come hither to this Court the firſt advertiſer, and was in the Ambaſſadors houſe before hee could beleeve it.

What acts of a ſtrong and able man hee did by the way, is a Storie not to be matched, and behaves himſelfe ſo weel heere as cannot be told;

And when it ſhall pleaſe GOD he comes home in ſafetie, will deſerve to bee received by all his Fathers Subjects lyk a bleſſing ſent from heaven. For there was never in any Prince of his Race, more Religion, underſtanding and good Nature, honeſtie and Activeneſſe, the LORD croune all with his long lyfe, and then is Our Yle happie.

Hee was received with all the honour that could bee done to any mortall man. The King made him ane Entrie as great as hee had beene Emperour. Gives him alwayes the place, and the right hand; And hath him ludged in his Palace, as hee were at Sainct *James*. For though it was in their *Lent*. when they exerciſe the ſtraiteſt manner of the *Catholique* Religion, Hee and His, had more libertie than they would vſe; There was neuer anie, (not of the Romane religion) ludged in the Palace before. The King and all his Court ſtudying how to deviſe pleaſure for Him, opponed the order of the *Pragmatique*, which did forebid all braverie eſpecially in *Lent*. Reſigning all Donations and Regall power to Him; Commanded all the Preſidents and Judges and Gouernours to take their direction from Him, all requeiſtes preſented to Him. What Hee would doe was done, though

in His wiſedome Hee would doe nothing but by the Kings Miniſters, and their Cuſtomes; All Priſons opened, all priſoners ſet at libertie, and they that were in for debt, the King fred them, and payed the debtes. In a word all was done, and is doing euery day, that could ſhow howe ſenſible the King is of the honour Hee had done of ſo truſting His Perſon in his Majeſties hãds. For the buſineſſe, it muſt goe on according to the pace, that their duetie to Sea of *Rome*, will permit, but for their owne affection they are deſirous of the Match as we can wiſh them. The King and his Brother vſe Him as Hee were their Fathers Sonne, and as their eldeſt Brother.

The *Jnfanta* is a Ladie to pleaſe any Eye, if Shee were but a meane Gentle-woman, comelie and well fauoured, of ſtature tall as moſt Women heere, and in any Countrie; Healthfull and likelie to bee a Child-bearer; Better fauoured than any either Picture or report made Her; And as Her Siſter is in *France*, the handſomeſt Woman of the Court, ſo is the *Jufanta* MARIA in this, (ſo is Shee named.) And for goodneſſe, God onely knowes the heart; But for good report, no Woman vnder Heauen hath a better; And for breading none ſo good, ſauing in that which wee are not to con-

ſider now, but leaue it to God; Religon, where-in Shee is ſo deuote and charitable, that I pray God theſe of our opinion may imitate Her. You may thinke that I am ſo turned *Spaniſh*, that I am onely ſet to praiſe, in conſcience I ſpeake within compaſſe, and am juſt the man without corruption, you euer tooke mee to bee, and by the grace of God, ſhall ſo cume home, and ſo die. But I write this for your information and ſatisfaction of ſuch of my Friendes, as your L. pleaſeth to impart it to, from on they haue no cauſe to diſtruſt. Tell it to whom you will, and giue mee for Author; And let mee intreate them all to thanke God, that ſince our Maſters Mariage was confyned in ſo narrow a circle, ſo few to chooſe of His equales, that Hee is likely to haue one that there is ſo much good in by all appearance, both of outſide and inſide; And let vs all joyne in heartie prayer, that wee bee not deceiued; but that God may bleſſe all to His Glory to the well of His Church, and of our Maſter and His Subjects. And if your L. would know further to judge Her by her Parents, the King Her Father was a ſincere good man, and for Her Mother Shee was the matchleſſeſt Princeſſe of Her time, eſpeciallie for wiſedome, goodneſie, and health, Shee died in Child-birth; And all Her children bee full and ſtrong. The King

is taller than Our Prince, ſtrong and nerveuſe well fauoured, and well ſpoken, and likelie to bee a braue active King.

Don *Carlos* is a little browner complectioned, but a luſtie wiſe-like young Prince; And the Cardinall *Don Fernando* the youngeſt is the fineſt, quickeſt, louliеſt Youth that can bee ſeene if Hee had nothing to recommend him but His hap and godlineſſe. Now let God doe what Hee will, thoſe bee good tokens. The Prince keepes His health ſtronglie, and if God, put end to all before the heates come on, this journey will turne to joye to vs all; And praiſe to the breaſt it bred in, and all the actors, which that it may bee, God grant if it bee his bleſſed will, And ſo I end for a long time, and if it be till I come to *England*, you will not blame me after all this.

Your L. moſt louing Seruant.

Madrid, the 5. *of* Aprill. 1623.

If your L. had ſeene with what a braue manner His Highneſſe acquite Himſelfe, the firſt time Hee ſaw His Miſtriſſe, it would haue done your heart good. The famouſeſt Courtier or Woer in *France* would not haue acted it more gallātly. Hee neuer did any thing ſo well, not run at Tilt. in which Hee is Maſter.